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August 3, 1955

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SUBJECT: Saudi Chargé's Call re Time Article on Saudi Arabian-Iraqi Relations

Shaikh Muhammad al-MUTLAQ, the Saudi Arabian Chargé d'Affaires a.i., called on me a few days ago. He said he was doing so on instructions of the Saudi Arabian Foreign Office in Jidda.

Al-Mutlaq, in the course of his call, raised the question of an article recently published by Time magazine in which an allegation appears to have been made that relations between the Saud family and the Hashemite family are bad. The Saudi Arabian Foreign Office had instructed him to assure me, he stated, that this allegation is without substance and that the relations between the two ruling dynasties of Saudi Arabia and Iraq are in fact both close and cordial.

I thanked al-Mutlaq for this information and told him I was pleased to hear it. I added that I assumed the Saudi Arabian Foreign Office had already discussed the offending article - which, incidentally, he had received only in Arabic translation as clipped from an unnamed Saudi Arabian newspaper - with the American Embassy in Jidda. He replied that, while his instructions did not so indicate, he believed that this had been the case.

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W. J. Gallman

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